

RE: Grant Closeout

Project: 2012 Technical Assistance Grant via U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Award Amount: \$45,250

Amount Expended: \$44,390.95

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this grant was to enhance our agencies ability to respond to and detect the presence of dangerous materials and gases leaking from pipelines and underground storage wells located throughout our 572 square mile county.

PROJECT PLAN OF ACTION

The funding we received was used to purchase the following pieces of equipment:

10 – MSA Altair 5 gas detection units

- These units were placed on our first responding fire units out of 8 stations within our county. The remaining 2 were placed in command staff vehicles, one of which responds to all pipeline and hazardous materials events across our county.

1 – Remote Methane Leak Detector (RMLD)

- This unit is currently carried on a heavy rescue vehicle that responds to all technical rescue and hazardous materials incidents within our county. This vehicle is also a deployable resource within the State of Kansas emergency operations plan.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

Within days of receiving the equipment purchased with this funding these valuable pieces of equipment were on fire apparatus and in the hands of first responders. Initial training was completed on the equipment with recurring training down on a quarterly basis.

To date we have not had a pipeline emergency where any of this equipment has been deployed to. On several occasions the 5 gas monitors have been used in carbon monoxide situations where fire units have been dispatched to a home or structure with an activated carbon monoxide detector.

PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

The expected service life for these pieces of equipment is somewhere around 12 years depending on the amount of use and how well they are maintained and serviced. In the past 8 months several of the oxygen sensors have had to be replaced in the 5 gas monitors. Part of these repairs has been covered under warrantee; part has been paid by Anderson County.

Training and regular use of these pieces of equipment will be vital to the readiness of our agencies to respond to a pipeline emergency. As new responders come on to the departments, initial training will be done for them.

SYNOPSIS

All in all we feel like this has been a worthy project for funding. Granted we have not had to deploy any of this equipment into a situation involving a pipeline emergency, it is reassuring to know all this equipment is on the apparatus and at the ready for deployment.

As with any equipment that involves electronics or technology there have been some issues with the oxygen sensors but the cost to replace has been minimal.

All in all this project has meet our expectations. Thankfully pipeline emergencies are few and far between but we greatly appreciate the funding provided by this program to bolster our ability to respond to one.

We would like to say thank you to all those who manage this funding program and for taking the time to review or application.

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